

Fredericksburg Arts Commission Meeting

**Monday, July 14, 2008
City Hall Conference Room**

Attendees: Debby Klein, Kevin Bartram, Rochelle Grey, Roy Jarnecke, Pat Thalman, Kathleen Walsh, Peter Scelfo, George Solley, and Kerry Devine.
Absent: Florence Ridderhof and Kim Schill.

George Solley called the meeting to order. The minutes of June 9, 2008 were unanimously approved. After a discussion of the duties of various officers of the Commission, elections were held with the following results:

Chairman – Roy Jarnecke
Vice-Chairman – Kevin Bartram
Secretary – Kim Schill
Treasurer – Peter Scelfo

Roy Jarnecke, as the new chairman, took over the conduct of the meeting.

In keeping with the City Ordinance establishing the Commission, the Chairman accepted volunteers to serve for two-year initial terms. Commission term lengths are therefore as follows:

Two years: Scelfo, Bartram, Walsh, and Grey
Four years: Jarnecke, Ridderhof, Klein, and Thalman
City appointments (no fixed length): Solley, Devine, Schill

The Commission discussed the designation of committees and the appointment of members. Since committees are discussed in the draft by-laws, it was agreed to further discuss their establishment at the next meeting, with the exception of a Calendar Committee (see below).

George Solley handed out draft by-laws for the Commission and it was agreed that members would be prepared to discuss the by-laws at the August meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 7:00 on Monday, August 18th, and at that time pick a day and time for the regular schedule of meetings.

Much discussion ensued concerning the need for a definitive community arts website, to include a calendar of events and a directory of artists and arts-related organizations. A committee was formed to explore the possibility of creating such a website, with Pat Thalman (Chairperson), Debby Klein, Rochelle Grey, and Kathleen Walsh as initial members.

The Commission discussed the need to have a clear vision, mission, and goals, and Kevin Bartram agreed to develop draft mission and goals for discussion at the August meeting.

The Commission discussed the need for a suitable performing arts venue, and George Solley and Kerry Devine briefed the Commission concerning a concept plan by the Silver Companies to include a 400-seat theater in their development at the site of the old Fredericksburg Hardware, on William Street. George Solley is to attend a meeting with Silver Companies representatives on July 23rd and will report back to the Commission on the results.

Further discussion touched on upcoming Fredericksburg Film Festival to be held the weekend of September 20-21. Commission members pointed out the need for the Commission to think about and plan for the arts in the larger sense and not get bogged down in detail concerning a specific genre or project. Other discussion emphasized the need to involve the city's youth, the African American community, and other groups that may not have direct representation on the Commission.